

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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AMCONSUL ADANA

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SUBJ: TURKISH PRESS REACTION: VIENNA TALKS, TURKISH-
GREEK RELATIONS, U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS

1. THE CONCLUSION OF THE VIENNA TALKS BETWEEN GREEK
AND TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADERS, TOGETHER WITH SUNDAY'S
VOTING IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM AMONG TURKISH
CYPRIOTS, RECEIVED MODERATELY HEAVY ATTENTION IN THE
TURKISH PRESS OVER THE WEEKEND AND MONDAY (JUNE 7-9).

2. STORIES ON THE VIENNA TALKS UNIFORMLY NOTED THAT NO
RESULTS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED. IN INTERVIEWS WITH HURRIYET
AND MILLIYET, GREEK CYPRIOT LEADER GLAFCOS CLERIDES WAS
QUOTED AS SAYING THAT HE WAS "NOT PLEASED" WITH THE OUTCOME
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OF THE SECOND ROUND OF TALKS. HE REPORTEDLY TOLD INTERVIEWERS

THAT THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM WOULD LEAD TO NEW DIFFICULTIES. ACCORDING TO MILLIYET MONDAY, CLERIDES SAID HE BELIEVED THE TURKISH-CYPRIOT SUGGESTION FOR THE FORMATION OF A TEMPORARY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT FOR THE ISLAND WAS A MANEUVER AND THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT IT WOULD BE ADOPTED BY THE GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE. HE WAS ALSO CRITICAL OF TURKISH-CYPRIOT VIEWS CONCERNING THE POWERS OF A CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

3. IN CONTRAST, TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADER RAUF DENKTAS REPORTEDLY TOLD NEWSMEN ON HIS ARRIVAL SUNDAY (JUNE 8) IN TURKEY THAT THE VIENNA TALKS HAD BEEN A SUCCESS. ACCORDING TO MILLIYET, DENKTAS SAID THAT NEXT MONTH'S MEETING WITH CLERIDES IN VIENNA WOULD BE CONCERNED WITH REOPENING THE NICOSIA AIRPORT AND WITH HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS.

4. SEVERAL MAJOR DAILIES, INCLUDING HURRIYET, CUMHURİYET AND MILLIYET, MONDAY GAVE TOP FRONT PAGE PLAY TO SUNDAY'S VOTING AMONG TURKISH CYPRIOTS. STORIES NOTED THAT THE ATMOSPHERE ON THE ISLAND WAS TENSE AND THAT SOME GREEK CYPRIOT UNITS HAD BEEN PUT ON ALERT. A REPORTED STATEMENT BY ACTING TURKISH CYPRIOT PRESIDENT OSMAN OREK THAT THE REFERENDUM MARKED A TURNING POINT IN THE HISTORY OF THE TURKISH CYPRIOT STATE WAS PROMINENTLY PLAYED.

IN A BANNER HEADLINE STORY SATURDAY, THE SMALL, CONSERVATIVE ANKARA DAILY ZAFER REPORTED THAT AMERICAN OFFICIALS IN ANKARA AND WASHINGTON HAD APPEALED TO TURKISH AUTHORITIES TO HAVE THE REFERENDUM POSTPONED. THE ZAFER STORY, GIVING AS ITS SOURCE "DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES IN ANKARA," SAID THAT THE TURKISH SIDE REFUSED, SAYING THAT NO "GESTURES" OF THIS TYPE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING UNTIL THE U.S. ARMS EMBARGO IS LIFTED.

5. IN COVERAGE OF OTHER CYPRUS-RELATED DEVELOPMENTS, MILLIYET REPORTED IN A FRONT PAGE STORY FROM ATHENS SUNDAY THAT GREECE HAS BEGUN TO REOPEN SEA AND AIR ROUTES IN THE AEGEAN AREA AND THAT A GROUP OF GREEK EXPERTS WILL COME TO ANKARA AT THE END OF THIS WEEK TO DISCUSS FLIGHT INFORMATION REGION (FIR) PROBLEMS WITH TURKISH OFFICIALS. IN SATURDAY EDITIONS, SEVERAL PAPERS REPORTED THAT PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL CONSULTED UNCLASSIFIED

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FRIDAY WITH OPPOSITION PARTY MEMBERS CONCERNING HIS CONVERSATIONS AT THE NATO SUMMIT AND HIS GOVERNMENT'S CYPRUS POLICY.

6. IN EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THE VIENNA TALKS, MILLIYET EDITOR ABDI İPEKCI ASSERTED AGAIN MONDAY THAT TURKEY WILL MAKE NO CONCESSION ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE UNTIL THE U.S. ARMS EMBARGO IS LIFTED. "...THERE WILL BE NO RESULT FROM THE NEGOTIATIONS

AS LONG AS THE U.S. CONGRESS, LIKE THE GREEKS, CONSIDERS
THE ARMS EMBARGO TO BE A MEANS OF PRESSURE ON TURKEY. IF THE
U.S. CONGRESS ADOPTS A RESOLUTION LIFTING THE EMBARGO
AGAINST TURKEY, THIS WILL CREATE A POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE FOR
THE THIRD ROUND OF THE TALKS BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNITIES
OF CYPRUS."
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